

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3105

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 1064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: ROUND UP OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

1. SUMMARY. ATTEMPTS BY CHIPENDA AND WHITES TO ACHIEVE RECOGNITION AS SPOKESMEN FOR THEIR GROUPS ON AN EQUAL LEVEL WITH THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS HAVE DOMINATED THE ANGOLAN POLITICAL SCENE FOR THE PAST WEEK. A SMALL FRINGE PARTY HAS BEEN ABSORBED INTO FNLA WITH GREAT FANFARE. MPLA SEES NORMALCY RETURNING. FNLA REJECTS THE PORTUGUESE PLAN FOR A COALITION GOVERNMENT. MPLA AND FNLA ARE COOPERATING WITH THE AUTHORITIES IN MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER BOTH IN LUANDA AND RURAL AREAS. MPLA ISSUED A STATEMENT REASSURING PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN THAT IT RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANT ROLE THEY CAN PLAY IN ANGOLA'S POLITICAL FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN VIEW OF THE IMMINENT CONVOCAION OF A SUMMIT MEETING OF THE HEADS OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT THERE HAS BEEN AN ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN BY THE GROUPS WHO HAVE BEEN LEFT IN THE COLD, THE CHIPENDA FACTION OF MPLA AND

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FUA, A PARTY THAT ASPIRES TO SPEAK FOR ANGOLAN WHITES. RECENT

STATEMENTS BY DANIEL CHIPENDA AND HOLDEN ROBERTO EMPHASIZE THAT THE PORTUGUESE MUST ACCEPT REALITY AND DEAL WITH MPLA AS THEY FIND IT, THAT IS THREE DISTINCT FACTIONS, AND THAT THE SUMMIT CONFERENCE CANNOT BE LEGITIMATE WITHOUT THE ATTENDANCE OF CHIPENDA AND THE REVOLTA ACTIVA OF THE ANDRADE BROTHERS. CHIPENDA HAS GONE SO FAR AS TO THREATEN TO RENEW THE WAR AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE UNLESS HE IS ACCORDED EQUAL STANDING WITH HIS NEMESIS, AGOSTINHO NETO, A THREAT WE FEEL HE CANNOT CARRY OUT IN THE SHORT TERM. TO DATE THE PORTUGUESE REACTION HAS BEEN TO INSIST THAT NETO IS RECOGNIZED BY THE OAU AS THE HEAD OF THE MPLA AND THEY CAN DEAL ONLY WITH HIM AT THE SUMMIT LEVEL, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE KEEPING OPEN THEIR LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH CHIPENDA. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ROBERTO OR MOBUTU IS YET WILLING TO CALL OFF THE TALKS IF CHIPENDA ISN'T SEATED, AND, SHORT OF THIS, THERE IS LITTLE IMMEDIATE PRESSURE CHIPENDA CAN PUT ON THE PORTUGUESE TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION.

3. FERNANDO FALCAO, THE WHITE HEAD OF FUA AND A SENIOR SECRETARY IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT, IS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE RECENT INDICATIONS BY VARIOUS PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN THAT ONLY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WILL BE REPRESENTED IN THE EVENTUAL COALITION GOVERNMENT. HE TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT THE GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE RENEGING ON THEIR PROMISE OF PERMITTING A WHITE ANGOLAN VOICE IN ALL DISCUSSIONS ON ANGOLA'S FUTURE. HE INSISTED THAT HE WOULD NOT PERMIT HIMSELF TO ATTEND ANY DISCUSSION AS A REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY LISBON BUT THAT HE, OR SOME WHITE, MUST ATTEND IN A CAPACITY AS A SPOKESMAN OF ANGOLAN WHITES. IF THIS IS NOT ACCEPTED BY THE LISBON GOVERNMENT HE WILL RESIGN AND, HE SAID, "THEY CAN WATCH WHAT HAPPENS," A REFERENCE TO WHAT HE EXPECTS TO BE A VIOLENT WHITE REACTION TO BEING "SOLD-OUT." FUA PUBLISHED TWO COMMUNIQUE THIS WEEK WARNING THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST FORGETTING THEIR PROMISE TO THE WHITES THAT WHITES WOULD HAVE A SAY IN ALL DISCUSSIONS ON ANGOLA'S FUTURE. NO THREATS WERE CONTAINED IN THE COMMUNIQUE.

4. ON DECEMBER THREE FNLA CALLED A BIG PRESS CONFERENCE IN LUANDA TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE ALIANCA DOS POVOS DE ANGOLA (APA) OF JOHN PEDRO M'BALA HAS MERGED WITH THE FNLA. THE APA HAS BEEN AN INSIGNIFICANT FRINGE PARTY AND CAN BRING ONLY A HANDFUL OF ADHERENTS OVER TO FNLA, BUT IT IS OBVIOUS THAT FNLA WAS PLAYING THIS UP IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE HOPE OTHERS OF THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL SMALL PARTIES WILL AGREE TO JOIN OR ALLY WITH FNLA.

5. AN ANGOLAN REPORTER, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM KINSHASA WHERE HE SPOKE WITH ROBERTO, SAVIMBI AND CHIPENDA, TOLD US THAT ALL THREE CONSIDER THE RECENT FNLA-UNITA ACCORD TO BE A WEAPON AIMED AT NETO. FNLA-UNITA HAVE DECIDED TO ASK FOR 75 PERCENT OF THE POWER IN ANY NEW GOVERNMENT, WITH THE REMAINDER TO GO TO MPLA AND

THE WHITES. THEY INSIST THIS DIVISION CORRESPONDS TO THE
RELATIVE POWER OF THE GROUPS. CHIPENDA MAY BRING HIS FACTION
FORMALLY INTO THE ALLIANCE, WHICH, HE INSISTED TO THE REPORTER,
HE HELPED FORM. ALL GROUPS FELT THE ALLIANCE IS A NATURAL ONE
AND WILL SURVIVE FOR THE SHORT TERM AT LEAST AND WILL ACHIEVE
ITS GOAL OF EARLY INDEPENDENCE AND THE RELEGATION OF NETO TO
A MINOR ROLE. THIS REPORTER ALSO SAID HE WAS TOLD
BY CHIPENDA AND SAVIMBI THAT PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT COSTA E
GOMES IS IN DIRECT, PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THEM AND ROBERTO VIA
LETTERS HAND-CARRIED BY LISBON JOURNALISTS TO THE LIBERATION
LEADERS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUANDA 1064

6. ON DECEMBER FIVE FNLA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE FROM KINSHASA STATING
THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE PORTUGUESE
MINISTER FOR INTER-TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS, ALMEIDA DOS SANTOS, AT THE
UN IN WHICH HE STATED THAT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WOULD BE
REPRESENTED BY MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT
AND THAT "TECHNOCRATS" WOULD RUN THE MINISTRIES. UNLESS
THE LISBON GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THE PROPOSITION THAT MEMBERS
OF THE LIBERATION GROUPS WILL OCCUPY POSITIONS OF POLITICAL AND

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE GOVERNMENT THEN FNLA "WILL HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS PARTICIPATION IN THIS GOVERNMENT." THIS IS A MISREADING OF WHAT THE PORTUGUESE HAVE IN MIND; THE MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO WILL BE SENIOR TO THE DEPARTMENT HEADS.

7. DURING A DECEMBER FIFTH PRESS CONFERENCE, LUCIO LARA, LUANDA BUREAU CHIEF, MPLA STATED THAT IN THE PAST WEEK MPLA HAD TURNED OVER 29 CRIMINALS TO THE POLICE, ALONG WITH SIZEABLE QUANTITIES OF STOLEN CARS, MOTORCYCLES, BIKES AND A COUPLE OF WEAPONS. HE SAID THIS DEMONSTRATED MPLA'S CONCERN WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND ORDER. HE REITERATED MPLA'S POSITION ON PRIVATE ENTERPRISES, CONFIDENTIAL

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EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR A STRONG PRIVATE SECTOR IN ANGOLA'S ECONOMY AND BLAMING LISBON, MULTI-NATIONAL AND FOREIGN CORPORATIONS FOR MOST OF THE CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE MODERATE TONE OF THIS STATEMENT IS UNDOUBTEDLY MEANT TO REASSURE LOCAL BUSINESSMEN THAT MPLA HAS THEIR INTERESTS AT HEART. LARA NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF TALK RECENTLY ABOUT THE DANGER OF CIVIL WAR. HE DISASSOCIATED THE MPLA FROM ANY SUCH TALK. THE MPLA, HE SAID, IS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE BECAUSE CALM IS RETURNING TO THE COUNTRY AND NORMALCY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT THERE IS IN THE COUNTRY AN AIR OF EXPECTATION AND, IN SOME SECTORS, A VIRTUAL PARALYSIS THAT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE ISSUE OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT IS RESOLVED. MPLA, HE EMPHASIZED, WILL GIVE ITS WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. LARA REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE PORTUGUESE PROPOSAL ANNOUNCED AT THE UN. KILLORAN

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